

***Gentiana glauca* Pallas**
glaucous gentian
Gentianaceae (Gentian Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G4G5S2S3

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1959) and Douglas et. al (1999): *Gentiana glauca* is a glabrous perennial herb, 1½ to 6 in. (4-15 cm) tall, with erect, solitary, glabrous stems arising from creeping rootstocks. The fleshy basal rosette leaves are elliptic to oval, and ½ to 1 in. (1-2 cm) long, while the two to four pairs of stem leaves are opposite and smaller, ¼ to ½ in. (5-10 mm) long, and egg-shaped to more elongate. The terminal inflorescence is a flat-topped cluster of short-stalked flowers. The corollas are deep blue, greenish-blue, or rarely yellowish-white, ¼ to ½ in. (1-2 cm) long, and tubular. The five lobes of the corolla are widely triangular, ¾ to 1 in. (2-2.5 mm) long, with small pleats in the spaces between the lobes. The subtending bracts are similar to the stem leaves or sometimes broader. The calyx is ¼ in. (5-7 mm) long, usually bluish tinged, inconspicuously keeled and about ½ the length of the corolla. The stamens are shorter than the corolla tubes and the anthers are up to 1/16 in. (1.5 mm) long. The fruits are broadly lanceolate, 1-chambered capsules. The flattened seeds are pale tan, honeycomb-pitted, irregularly wrinkled, wing margined and up to ½ in. (0.7-10 mm) long.

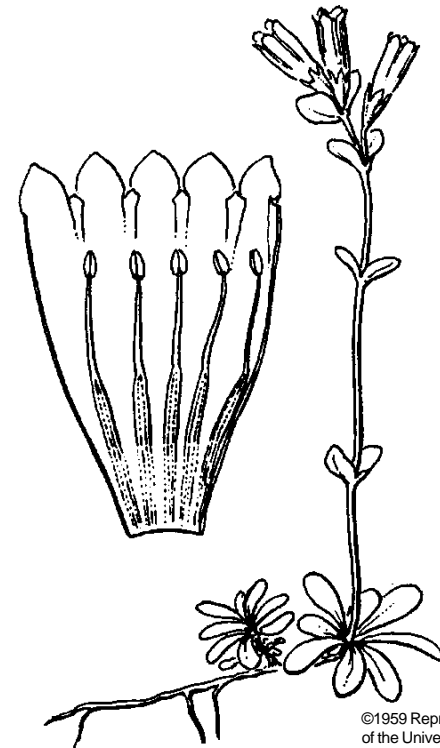
Identification Tips: *Gentiana glauca* can be identified by the combination of its perennial, rhizomatous habit, its relatively small flowers that are ¼ to ½ inch (1-2 cm) long, and its cluster of short-stalked, usually deep blue flowers.

Phenology: This species flowers from July to September.

Range: This species occurs in Alaska and Yukon south to British Columbia and in the Rocky Mountains to Montana. In Washington it is restricted to Whatcom and Okanogan counties.

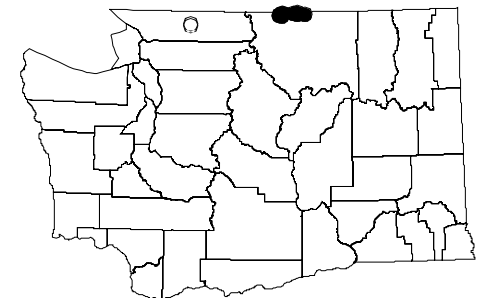
Habitat: This species grows on hummocks, in seepage areas and moist alpine and subalpine meadows from 4000 to 7000 feet (1219-2133 meters) in elevation. It has been recorded growing with timber oatgrass (*Danthonia intermedia*), Drummond's cinquefoil (*Potentilla drummondii*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), chickweed (*Cerastium* spp.), and spearleaf stonecrop (*Sedum lanceolatum*).

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Known distribution
of *Gentiana glauca*
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Ecology: At one site, *Gentiana glauca* grows in the same hummocky areas as *Gentianella tenella*, but the two species have been found in slightly different micro-habitats. *G. glauca* grows directly on hummocks, while *Gentianella tenella* never grows directly on hummocks. *G. glauca* grows on microsites that are very moist.

State Status Comments: There are fewer than fourteen known occurrences in Washington.

Inventory Needs: Known occurrences need to be revisited and their status assessed, as some records are more than 35 years old.

Threats and Management Concerns: Some populations are decreasing, due to trampling by hikers and trail maintenance, as well as trampling and grazing by horses, cows and sheep.

References:

Adams, A.B., B. Crooks, and P. Williston. Distributions of interesting vascular plants in the Pasayten Wilderness. Washington, with emphasis on *Gentiana glauca* and *G. tenella* in Horseshoe Basin. Unpublished. On file with WNHP.

Douglas, G.W., G.B. Straley, D. Meidinger, and J. Pojar. 1999. *Illustrated Flora of British Columbia* vol. 3: *Dicotyledons (Diapensiaceae Through Onagraceae)*. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, British Columbia. 423 pp.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 4: Ericaceae Through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 510 pp.